In His Hands #5 “Before and After the Downfall” Daniel 4

**Intro:** 7th grader on varsity wrestling team, 95 lbs, sweat shirt!

* Circling an 8th grade girls block on my ten speed wondering if she had noticed how I had come into my prime.
* She walked out; I waved (no hands!); Sudden Stop… on my back on the pavement… I had peddled my bike full speed into the front of her mother’s sedan.

**t/s** – My first taste of an old truth, “***Pride goes before the downfall***.”

 The downfall seems sudden, but actually the result of pride’s slow and steady work rotting the roots of relationships.

Daniel 4

***Review:*** ***Daniel is in Exile, but the LORD is on His Throne***.

 The God of Heaven rules on earth --- Powerful, Present and Personal. We Trust Him because He has **Already** proven Himself to Us.

**Daniel 4: 1-5** Who can he find to Understand the Dream? ***Daniel***

**Daniel 4: 19 – 27** – “Break Away” = Repent! Change Behavior and

 Throw yourself on the Mercy of God!

**Daniel 4: 28-34** – Hanging Gardens… 7 wonders of ancient world!

 I, Myself, My, My…

Arrogant king loses his mind until he bows low comes to his senses.

**Theological Truth – Vs. 17, 25, 32 – LORD Rules over Kings, Kingdoms**

 A Warning to Neb.; and a Promise to the Exiles.

 **Lam. 5:19** – *You O LORD rule forever;*

*Your throne is from generation to generation!*

**Practical Personal Truth: *Your Pride will bring you down.***

 **Vs. 37** – He is able to humble those who walk in pride.

**t/s** – Either you deal with your pride or I Will!

***God is opposed to the Proud man, but gives grace to the Humble.***

 NOT the natural consequences… Active Judgment, Correction.

 LORD is present, active, ruling and He will Bring You Down.

**How Can We Deal with Our Pride?**

1. Pay attention to the Inner Witness of His Spirit.
2. Find a Friend who will Tell you the Truth.
3. Look Up for the Source of Your Successes.

**Contrast Vs. 29-20 with Vs. 34**

**Your Pride Will Bring You Down.**

**Why is the LORD so serious about Pride?**

***Pride is Poison.***

* Rots Relationships (family, friends, work…)
* Perverts the Plan and Purpose of God (HIS Glory)
* Resists the Good News of Jesus

Repent (Turn form your way as wrong)

Trust (Stop relying on yourself)

Follow Me (You’re not in charge)

Parable of Jesus in **Luke 18: 9-14 –** *for everyone who exalts himself*…

The Antidote for Pride is the Cross of Jesus --- **Gospel**

 Would you humble yourself at the foot of the Cross?

***When I survey the wondrous Cross… Pour contempt on all my pride.***